

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 AID-05
MCT-01 DHA-02 EB-07 /095 W
-----020828Z 090811 /17

R 291430Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8916
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 622

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HIKMAT AL MASRI

SUMMARY: LEADING NABLUS NOTABLE HIKMAT AL MASRI SHARPLY CRITICAL OF HUSSEIN'S PERFORMANCE IN WASHINGTON. NEVER-THE LESS REMAINS OPTIMISTIC AND REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PLO. ASSERTS GENUINE NORMALIZATION WILL BE LONG PROCESS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DPO KRUSE AND LUNCHEONED WITH HIKMAT AL MASRI AT HIS HOME IN NABLUS APRIL 28. AL MASRI HAD BEEN ILL AND HAD POSTPONED PLANNED TRIP TO AMMAN WHICH HE NOW HOPES TO MAKE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. AL MASRI WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF RESULTS HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE BLAMED HUSSEIN'S PESSIMISM FOR PRESIDENT'S APRIL 26 COMMENTS ON NEED FOR POSSIBILITY FOR SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENT BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE
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CAN BE CONVENED. NEVERTHELESS, AL MASRI THOUGHT THAT COMBINATION OF PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF CONFRONTATION STATES, PLUS CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AUGURED WELL FOR PROGRESS.

3. AL MASRI REITERATED PLO SPOKE FOR PALESTINIANS AND RHETORICALLY ASKED, "WHO ELSE COULD SPEAK FOR US?"

AFTER PALESTINIAN ENTITY EMERGED, NATURAL LINKS WITH JORDAN WOULD FOLLOW, HOWEVER, THIS SEQUENCE MUST BE FOLLOWED.

4. AL MASRI DENOUNCED ISRAELI ACTIONS IN STRONG TERMS CITING EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY AND HUMILIATING TREATMENT AT BRIDGES. AFTER CONFLICT AND HATRED OF PAST 30 YEARS, HE ASSERTED NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS IMPOSSIBLE IN EVENT SETTLEMENT ACHIEVED. OVERRIDING GOAL FOR WEST BANKERS WAS, HE STRESSED, TO ACHIEVE RAPID END TO OCCUPATION.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, AL MASRI SAID ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WERE NOT GOOD AND GAVE EXAMPLES IN WHICH ISRAELIS ALLEGEDLY PREVENTED OR HAMPERED WEST BANK INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. COMMENT: AL MASRI HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY SADAT AS POTENTIAL HEAD OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINE. HE WAS UNUSUALLY TESTY PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF HIS ILLNESS FROM WHICH HE HAD NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED. HE REMAINS A FIGURE OF IMPORTANCE IN WEST BANK AFFAIRS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HIS STATUS WAS ATTESTED TO BY THE FACT THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNOR WAS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A CURTESY CALL TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS HEALTH LATER IN THE DAY.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, PBOR, IS, JO, US, (MASRI, HIKMAT AL)
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